

## Message Text

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16

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 PM-04

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 L-03

SAJ-01 /093 W

----- 086816

R 311640Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7978

INFO AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 2000

CASABLANCA FOR RCAA

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, DM, UR

SUBJ: SOVIET-BENIN AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT

REF COTONOU 1954

1. IN COMMENT PORTION OF REFTEL, EMBASSY EXPRESSED ITS BELIEF THAT HERE WAS A CLOSE CONNECTION BETWEEN FINALIZATION OF THE SOVIET-BENIN AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME AND THE SOVIET NEED OF RELIABLE AIR TRANSPORT ROUTES TO ANGOLA. WE HAVE SINCE ACQUIRED ADDITIONAL INFO THAT WOULD TEND TO CORROBORATE THAT THESIS.

2. SOURCE IN ENINESE FORNMIN HAS CONFIRMED TO US THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE REQUESTED RIGHTS FOR ANGOLA-BOUND FLIGHTS TO MAKE "TECHNICAL STOPS" IN COTONOU.

3. SOVIET AMB INFORMED US ON DEC 29 THAT EXACT PARTICULARS OF SERVICE INVOLVING COTONOU HAVE NOT YET BEEN WORKED OUT,  
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AND THAT FIRST FLIGHTS NOT LIKELY TO BEGIN FOR A FEW MONTHS

YET. ONE OF HIS SUBORDINATES TOLD EMBOFF A FEW DAYS AGO THAT USSR IS NOW CONSIDERING A FLIGHT FROM MOSCOW THROUGH SOME POINT IN EUROPE TO COTONOU AND THEN ONWARD TO EITHER BRAZZA-VILLE OR LUANDA. ACCORDING TO THAT SOURCE, ONE OF ADVANTAGES SOVIETS PERCEIVE IN RUNNING SUCH FLIGHTS THROUGH COTONOU RATHER THAN LAGOS IS THAT AT COTONOU AIRPORT, WHERE THERE IS LITTLE ACTIVITY, IT WOULD BE SIMPLE TO BRING FLIGHTS IN AT ANY TIME, AND EASIER FOR AIRLINE PERSONNEL TO WORK THAN IN LAGOS WHERE CONGESTION AND DISORGANIZATION PREVAILS. (NOTE: HERE THE SOVIETS CAN EASILY ARRANGE ALL THE SECURITY THEY WANT, AND IT WILL BE FRIENDLY.) SAME SOURCE INTIMATED THAT USSR MIGHT POST TECHNICAL PERSONNEL HERE TO SERVICE THE AIRCRAFT. SOVIET AMB HAS INDICATED TO US THAT AN AEROFLOT MANAGER WILL BE PERMANENTLY STATIONED HERE.

4. OUR INQUIRIES ON THIS SUBJECT WILL CONTINUE.  
ENGLE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AGREEMENTS, FLIGHT CLEARANCES, AIR ROUTES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 DEC 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975COTONO02000  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750452-0690  
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**Office:** ACTION EB  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Date:** 17 JUN 2003  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
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**Subject:** SOVIET-BENIN AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT  
**TAGS:** EAIR, DM, UR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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